

CASE STUDY: PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Policy Goal

Implementation of biking and walking improvements will be carried out through project prioritization and establishment of performance metrics. To improve safety and reduce crash rates, communities must follow through with designing and building streets for all modes of transportation. Project construction should be prioritized through a methodology that accounts for safety, equity and health.

What is project prioritization and implementation?

Project prioritization and implementation planning are typically embedded into Active Transportation Plans and Complete Streets policies. By mapping out a plan for implementing infrastructure changes, a city or village can use these guidelines for upgrading the roadways to benefit people who bike and walk. Plans typically include specific suggestions of treatments to key roadways as informed by research and community input.



Why is project prioritization and implementation important?

Creating an Active Transportation Plan and passing a Complete Streets policy are just the initial steps to improving biking and walking in your community. Ensuring that these plans and policies are implemented is extremely important. Project prioritization is a helpful tool to provide a framework for infrastructure changes as suggested in the plan. By prioritizing based on specific roadway projects, the municipality can create a plan of action and establish an oversight entity to ensure that projects are completed and reported-on.

Project Prioritization Resources

Active Transportation Plan: Bensenville

<https://tinyurl.com/bensenvilleatp>

- An important step towards a more livable community is implementing your Active Transportation Plan and Complete Streets policy. In order to make sure that the plan recommendations are built, the city or village will need to prioritize projects. Bensenville's Active Transportation Plan includes a prioritization methodology that could be adopted in other communities.

Indianapolis Pedestrian Plan Prioritization Methodology

<https://tinyurl.com/pedplanpriority>

- Another example of a prioritization methodology comes to us from Indianapolis; the criteria included in their methodology determines which projects will have greater impact and therefore greater urgency. Indianapolis' method includes an analysis of quantitative data including health, equity, safety, crime and pedestrian demand. While we face challenges in local opportunities, CNT

Case Study: Chicago Heights

Background

In 2012, Chicago Heights worked with Active Trans, Prevention Partnership, and local community leaders to create an Active Transportation Plan. The plan later won an American Planning Association Illinois Chapter Award for Implementation. The city went on to adopt a Complete Streets policy in 2013.

Implementation prioritization: Why was implementation so successful in Chicago Heights? Thanks to the concrete recommendations outlined in the plan and strong leadership from city government and residents, projects were prioritized and carried out in an effective manner.

In recent years, the city has encouraged residents to get involved in bicycling and community building through Open Street events and bike rodeos. These two encouragement programs were included in the Active Transportation Plan recommendations to offer opportunities for community members to get out and ride their bikes. The Open Streets annual event celebrates active transportation by closing a major thoroughfare to vehicles so that residents can walk, ride and build community in a safe public space.

Chicago Heights has also created a local bike map and dozens of bike racks made by local high school students have been installed.

In 2015, the Old Plank Road Trail was extended through Chicago Heights to connect to the Thorn Creek Trail and fill in a missing piece of the 500-mile Grand Illinois Trail. This trail extension was identified in the Active Transportation Plan process and outlined in the plan's implementation map. The city is also looking to extend the Thorn Creek Trail to Vollmer Road and connect to Prairie State University and other bike lanes.